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U.K. TO OFFER VISAS TO GRADS OF WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES

Graduates from the world's top 50 universities will now be able to work in the UK under the new High Potential Individual visa route

BID TO ATTRACT THE 'BEST AND BRIGHTEST'

The scheme will be available to alumni of the top non-UK universities who have graduated in the past five years. The system is aimed at attracting the 'best and brightest' talent from around the world. Successful applicants will be given a two-year work visa, while those with PhD will get a three-year visa even if they don't have a specific job offer in hand

CONDITIONS TO APPLY FOR THE SCHEME

- To qualify, a person must have attended a university which appeared in the top 50 of at least two of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings or The Academic Ranking of World Universities, in the year in which they graduated

£715

THE APPROXIMATE COST OF BRITAIN'S NEW HIGH POTENTIAL INDIVIDUAL (HPI) VISA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

(Clockwise from top) Videograb of a man picking up a media mic and landing a blow on farmer leader Rakesh Tikait during an event organised by a farmers' outfit in Bengaluru on Monday; another man throws ink on Tikait; ink splashed all over the face of the farmer leader (inset) | SHRIRAM BN

Tikait attacked, ink thrown on his face, 3 held in B'luru

MANJU SHETTAR @ Bengaluru

BHARATIYA Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait was attacked by three people at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Monday when he was about to address a press conference. The three accused smeared the farmer leader's face with black ink and tried to hit him with a mic.

The trio, who have been arrested, reportedly told the police that they were upset with Tikait and others for not talking in Kannada and also for attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi in their speeches.

The arrested have been identified as Bharath Shetty, Pradeep and Shivakumar, members of Karnataka Sangatanegala Okkoota.

At around 11 am, Tikait, along with other leaders was at Gandhi Bhavan to take part in an event, 'Farmer's Movement: Introspection and Clarification' over allegations against state farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar that he took bribes to end farmers' protests on Delhi border.

When Kavitha Kuragunti, a woman farmer leader was speaking in Telugu, a group of people demanded that she speak in Kannada. In the melee, the three accused charged at Tikait and splashed ink on his face and tried to hit him on the head with a mic. Tikait however protected himself by holding the mic with his hand.

High drama prevailed at the venue as it led to a clash between two groups who indulged in throwing plastic chairs at each other. P4

AAP minister arrested for alleged money laundering

ED claims he used shell companies, hawala channels; party says it's vendetta as Satyendar Jain is in-charge of poll-bound Himachal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain in connection with a money laundering case, based on a 2017 FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lawmaker.

Jain had allegedly received funds through shell companies linked to him and used it to purchase agricultural land in and around Delhi. He had been questioned multiple times in the past. The chargesheet in the case was filed in 2018.

Last month, the ED attached immovable properties worth ₹4.81 crore belonging to companies related to the case — Akinchan Developers Pvt Ltd, Indo Metal impex Pvt Ltd, Paryas Infosolutions Pvt Ltd, Manglayatan Projects Pvt Ltd and JJ Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd. The properties of Jain's family members — Swati Jain, Sushila Jain and Indu Jain were also attached.

"Investigation by the ED revealed that during the period 2015-16, when Satyendar Kumar Jain was a public servant, the above mentioned companies beneficially owned and controlled by him, received accommodation entries to the tune of ₹4.81 crore from shell companies against cash transferred to Kolkata-based entry operators through the hawala route. These amounts were utilised for direct purchase of land or for the repayment of loan taken for purchase of agricultural land in and around Delhi," the ED said in its statement.

Satyendar Jain

The AAP described it as political vendetta aimed to arrest the party's growth in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh as Jain is the AAP's state in-charge. Himachal is expected to go to polls in just a few months from now.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh said, "The people who were the owners of these companies during 2015-2017 have confessed to their crimes in the court and clearly submitted that all the money belongs to them. The court has also accepted this point. The ED summoned Jain seven times in 2018 but they could not find anything against him. ED took no action since 2019 and the case appeared to have been closed. Now it has been reopened before the Himachal elections. This is nothing but yet another instance of the BJP manhandling the state machinery for political gains."

However, the opposition BJP and the Congress demanded Jain's immediate sacking from the Delhi cabinet.

₹1.47 CRORE DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS: CBI

A CBI chargesheet filed in 2018 quantified the disproportionate assets as ₹1.47 crore, about 217% more than Jain's known sources of income during 2015-17. The Income Tax Department, too, had issued an order attaching the 'benami assets' allegedly linked to Jain

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EXPRESS READ

Infy Metro station to get green certification

Bengaluru: In a first for Namma Metro, the Infosys Konappana Agrahara station (earlier known as Electronic City-2) on the 18-km RV Road-Bommasandra Line is likely to get a certification from the prestigious Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), India's premier body for energy efficiency assessment | P2

Loudspeaker deadline ends, no SOPs yet

Bengaluru: The deadline for applying and getting permission for use of loudspeakers, public address (PA) systems and any sound-producing instruments in Karnataka ended on May 25 with "no sign of SOPs in sight yet to implement the order," sources told *TNIE* | P4

UPSC 2021 RESULTS

1, 2, 3. Women at the apex of all-India ranks

IFRAH MUFTI @ New Delhi

Shruti Sharma

GIRLS bagged all the top three slots in the civil services examination 2021. Shruti Sharma, Ankita Agarwal and Gamini Singla secured the first, second and third rank, respectively, according to the final results announced by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Monday.

UPSC topper Shruti is from Delhi. She did her graduation in History (Hons) from Delhi's St Stephen's College. Although she joined the Jawaharlal Nehru University, she could not complete her course as she went ahead and took admission at Jamia Millia Islamia's Residential Coaching Academy for UPSC aspirants. Shruti is among the 23 students of Jamia who cleared UPSC this year. Currently, she is pursuing MA Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics.

"My first preference is the Uttar Pradesh cadre where I originally belong. Uttar Pradesh has larger opportunities and many sectors where I wish to work," she said. Second rank holder Ankita, a native of West Bengal, is currently training with Indian Revenue Services (Customs and Indirect Taxes) at Faridabad in Haryana. She pursued her graduation in economics from St Stephen's College, Delhi. Thereafter, she joined a corporate house and worked for a while but quit the job to pursue her civil service dreams. She got into IRS in 2019 but continued to chase her goal to join the IAS.

Gamini, the third rank holder, did her BTech in computer science from the Punjab Engineering College Chandigarh. Singla's parents are medical officers working with the Himachal Pradesh government. On women bagging the top three positions in the exam, she said, "This shows women are capable of achieving anything through their hard work and dedication."

AISHWARYA VERMA IS MEN'S TOPPER

Fourth rank holder Aishwarya Verma is not a girl. Hailing form Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, Verma has emerged the men's topper. Utkarsh Dwivedi got the fifth rank

24 CANDIDATES FROM K'TAKA CLEAR EXAMS

Avinash Rao

Avinash, who secured 31st all-India rank, has emerged as the topper for Karnakata state

Aruna Mahalingappa

Despite losing her farmer father to suicide over debt crisis, Aruna has secured 308 all-India rank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TWENTY-FOUR candidates from Karnataka have cleared the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services 2021 examination, results of which were announced on Monday. As many as 685 candidates qualified for the exams which took place in January 2022.

Of the 24 candidates from Karnataka, Avinash Rao from Davanagere has secured 31st all-India rank. Another candidate Benaka Prasad N J has secured 92nd all-India rank.

The 308th rank holder, Aruna Mahalingappa, turned out to be an inspiration to the children of farmers who face debt crisis due to price crash and other issues.

Having lost her father Mahalingappa, who ended his own life over debts when she was studying her second semester of Bachelor of Engineering in Instrumentation Technology branch at Siddaganga Institute of Technology in Tumakuru, she took it as a challenge to crack the UPSC and did it.

Avinash Rao, who is the topper for Karnataka, is the son of hotelier Vittal Rao from Kumbashi in Kundapura taluk of Udupi district.

Speaking to *TNIE* from Bengaluru, Avinash said: "During the last one year, since the completion of my law graduation from the National Law School of India University, I had been preparing for the civil services examination." CONTINUED ON: P5

Kuvempu row: Writers, leaders, seers mount pressure on Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PRESSURE has started mounting on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to remove **Rohith Chakrathirtha** from the post of chairman of Karnataka Textbooks Revision Committee, over his remarks about the state anthem.

Close on the heels of Adichunchanagiri Mutt head Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swami writing to Bommai, urging action against those who distorted Naadageethe (state anthem) written by 'Rashtrakavi' Kuvempu -- 'Jaya Bharata Jananiya Tanujate Jayahe Karnataka Maate...' -- literary figures have started resigning from government posts.

Nadoja Hampa Nagarajaiah on Monday resigned as chairman of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishtana, Kuppalli. "Kuvempu brought glory to Kannada and Karnataka by getting the first Jnanpith award. The government set up the Pratishtana in his name, beside conferring the Karnataka Ratna on him. But the government has given a responsible post to a person who had insulted Kuvempu and the respectful community he hailed from, instead of taking action," he mentioned in the letter.

He felt the government being a mute spectator was a dangerous development, and sent a wrong message that those who badmouth the state anthem get opportunities as members of government committees. "The hope that the government will not tolerate attacks on personalities went in vain, and it is difficult for me to keep silent over insults to Kuvempu and Naadageethe," he elaborated, appealing to the chief minister to accept his resignation. CONTINUED ON: P4

RS POLLS

Cross-voting worries for BJP, Congress

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

EVEN as former Union minister Jairam Ramesh and KPCC general secretary Mansoor Ali Khan filed their nominations for Rajya Sabha elections on Monday, there were concerns within Congress over cross-voting. Hours later, BJP announced its third candidate MLC Lehar Singh Siroya, taking the contest a notch higher.

BJP on Sunday announced Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and actor Jaggesh as its candidates. But after Congress ambitiously propped up its second candidate, BJP, seemingly as an afterthought, announced Lehar Singh's candidature on Monday evening. Lehar Singh is a member of the Legislative Council whose term ends shortly. All the three BJP candidates are expected to file their nomination papers on Tuesday, the last day to file nominations.

BJP has 121 MLAs and will need 92 votes for its two nominees Nirmala Sitaraman and Jaggesh. CONTINUED ON: P4

DGCA acts against KIA's ATC officials for near collision of 2 Indigo flights

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE civil aviation regulatory body, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has issued strict enforcement action against two officials of the Air Traffic Control (ATC) unit of the Kempegowda International Airport for a near collision between two Indigo flights here on January 7. The action follows completion of an inquiry by DGCA.

The New Indian Express was the only paper to report the near mid-air collision between 6E 455 (Bengaluru to Kolkata) and 6E 246 (Bengaluru to Bhubaneswar), which took off simultaneously from the north and south runways of KIA. Though they were involved in a breach of separation at the airport, the incident was not reported to DGCA.

DGCA Director-General Arun Kumar told *TNIE* on Monday, "We recently took strict action against those responsible for the serious incident after completing the regulatory investigation. The licence of the north tower controller, who was also the WSO (Watch Supervisory Officer) of the shift, has been suspended for three months for failing to comply with numerous rules. A warning letter has been issued to the tower supervisor for not monitoring the activities of the ATC tower and not reporting the incident." CONTINUED ON: P5

PM CARES

REACHING OUT TO COVID ORPHANS

Over 4,000 Covid-19 orphaned children will get a monthly stipend of ₹4,000, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday as he unveiled ₹10 lakh support under the PM Cares for Children Scheme | P10

NATION WIDE	MAY 29	MAY 30
Fresh cases	2,826	2,706
Recoveries	2,035	2,070
Deaths	16	25
KARNATAKA	MAY 29	MAY 30
Fresh cases	249	166
Recoveries	98	101
Deaths	0	0

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

May 29: 2,28,823 doses

May 30: 11,67,191 doses

₹500 is the most faked note; RBI to introduce new security features

CHANDAN NANDY @ New Delhi

THE RBI's decision to introduce new security features in high denomination banknotes and the inordinate delay in physically examining foreign suppliers' production facilities and capacities have stalled the printing of new currency notes even as the number of detected fake ₹500 and ₹2,000 notes went up by a whopping 110% and 55%, respectively, in FY22.

One of the new features is counterfeit-proof security threads and paper- and ink-based taggants, RBI sources said. The taggants, which are manufactured by US-based Stardust Materials LLC, will replace the 'M Feature' (achemical), which are specifically for high-security paper makers. Only select RBI experts can identify 'M'. The 'M Feature' is specific to each country.

Taggants are chemical and physical markers embedded in banknotes for reinforcing their security. They are used to distinguish authentic products from counterfeits and provide identifying information for ease of traceability.

The detection of fake notes of all denominations in FY22 went up over FY21's numbers. While 2,08,625 pieces of fake notes were found in FY21, the figure was 2,30,971 in FY22. There was a 55% jump in the number of fake ₹2,000 notes.

Sources said considering the "massive" jump in the detection of fake ₹500 notes, the thrust now is to allow foreign companies to make stronger security features for the banknotes. This, the sources said, is because the post-demonetisation series of banknotes contain "weak" security features — the security thread being the most critical — manufactured by Indian companies. P9